

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1           1.     A process comprising:  
2           monitoring a database to detect changes to accessed data in the database; and  
3           updating the accessed data during use of the data in accordance with synchronization  
4           rules in response to the detected changes.

1           2.     A device comprising:  
2           a processor monitoring a database to detect changes to accessed data in the database,  
3           and updating the accessed data during use of the data in accordance with synchronization  
4           rules in response to the detected changes.

1           3.     A process comprising:  
2           accessing data stored in a database;  
3           inputting the accessed data to a form;  
4           using the form with the inputted accessed data by a first user;  
5           monitoring the database to detect changes to the accessed data by a second user  
6           while the form is being used by the first user; and  
7           updating the accessed data in the form while being used by the first user in  
8           accordance with rules corresponding to the detected changes.

1           4.     The process according to claim 3, further comprising:  
2           displaying update status of the accessed data in accordance with the updating; and  
3           storing the inputted accessed data used by the first user in the database.

1           5.     A device comprising:  
2           a processor to access data stored in a database, to input the accessed data to a form,  
3           to use the form with the input accessed data by a first user, to monitor the database to  
4           detect changes to the accessed data by a second user while the form is being used by the

5 first user, and to update the accessed data in the form while being used by the first user in  
6 accordance with rules corresponding to the detected changes.

1 6. The device according to claim 5, wherein the rules synchronize simultaneous  
2 changes made by the first user and the second user to the accessed data.

1 7. The device according to claim 5, wherein the rules are based upon  
2 characteristic of edits by a second user to the accessed data and characteristic of the  
3 accessed data.

1 8. The device according to claim 5, wherein use of the accessed data by the  
2 first user includes editing the accessed data.

1 9. The device according to claim 5, wherein the processor provides update  
2 notification to the first user while the form is being used by the first user.

1 10. The device according to claim 9, wherein the update notification comprises  
2 displaying update history information corresponding to each accessed data in the form.

1 11. The device according to claim 10, wherein the update notification includes  
2 displaying the accessed data in different colors in accordance with the updating.

1 12. The device according to claim 10, wherein the update notification includes  
2 associating comment bubbles with the accessed data.

1 13. The device according to claim 5, wherein the inputted accessed data is stored  
2 locally and the database is stored remotely.

1 14. The device according to claim 5, wherein the processor further maintains a  
2 change log of the accessed data.

1           15.     A device comprising:  
2           means for accessing data stored in a database;  
3           means for inputting the accessed data to a form;  
4           means for using the form with the inputted accessed data by a first user;  
5           means for monitoring the database to detect changes to the accessed data by a  
6 second user while the form is being used by the first user; and  
7           means for updating the accessed data in the form while being used by the first user  
8 in accordance with rules corresponding to the detected changes.

1           16.     A system to automatically update forms, the system comprising:  
2           a server storing data in a database; and  
3           clients connected to the server via a network and accessing the data stored in the  
4 database, wherein the accessed data is input to a form used by a first user, the database  
5 being monitored to detect changes to the accessed data by a second user while the form is  
6 being used by the first user, and the accessed data in the form being updated while being  
7 used by the first user in accordance with rules corresponding to the detected changes.

1           17.     A computer readable medium encoded with processing instructions for  
2 implementing a method of automatically updating forms to be performed by a computer,  
3 the method comprising:  
4           accessing data stored in a database;  
5           inputting the accessed data to a form;  
6           using the form with the inputted accessed data by a first user;  
7           monitoring the database to detect changes to the accessed data by a second user  
8 while the form is being used by the first user; and  
9           updating the accessed data in the form while being used by the first user in  
10 accordance with rules corresponding to the detected changes.